

Appln No. 10/675,227
Amdt date July 15, 2008
Reply to Office action of March 21, 2008

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached five sheets of annotated drawings includes changes to FIGs. 1A, 1B, 1C, 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 9. The replacement sheets, which includes FIGs. 1A, 1B, 1C, 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 9, replaces the original sheet including FIGs. 1A, 1B, 1C, 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 10-12, 14, and 16 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 12 are amended and claim 8 is presently cancelled.

The drawings have been amended to add the identifier "PRIOR ART" to FIGs. 1A, 1B, 1C, 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 9. No new matter has been added.

The undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for his time for the telephonic interview on June 25, 2008.

The specification is amended in relevant parts to include cross-sectional area (not including the aperture) to clarify the cross sections depicted in FIGs. 2B, 2C, 8B, and 8C. Support for this amendment is provided, in part, in FIGs. 8B and 8C (and the related text), in which, the quasi-square shaded areas are the cross sections (not including the aperture) of the pressure retaining part and the introducing part, respectively and are equal to each other. Similarly, the quasi-square shaded areas in FIG. 2B is the cross section (not including the aperture) of the pressure retaining part, and the quasi-square shaded areas in FIG. 2C is the cross section (not including the aperture) of the introducing part, which is smaller than the quasi-square shaded areas in FIG. 2B. Therefore, no new matter is added. This is also supported by the language of "In this case, a press-fitting margin of the press-fit terminal with respect to the through-hole is (W - w)," in page 13, lines 30-32. Support for this amendment is also provided by the language of "wherein the region of said aperture corresponding to the press-fitting retaining part is formed small so that a reduction in the elastic force of the press-fitting part, which is caused when the cross-sectional area of said introducing part is decreased, can be made up," in the original claim 8.

The drawings are objected to; and claims 7 and 8 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In view of the amendment to claim 7 and cancellation of claim 8, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wurster (US 5,573,431). Claim 10 is rejected as being obvious over Wurster; Claims 11, 12 and 14 are

rejected as being obvious over Wurster in view of Inagaki, 5,837,155; and Claim 16 is rejected as being obvious over Wurster, in view of Inagaki, as applied to Claim 12 and further in view of McMonagle (U.S. 4,533,035). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a press-fit terminal that solves a problem of the conventional press-fit terminals, namely, the problem of applying a "strong force to the opening portion of the through-hole in the direction of the board face," resulting in damaging the board by peeling off "the laminated sheet in the periphery of the opening portion of the through-hole." (Page, 14, lines 20-27). Therefore, when the cross-sectional area (not including the aperture) of the introducing part is reduced to smaller than the cross-sectional area (not including the aperture) of the pressure retaining part, an intensity of the elastic force of the introducing part is reduced. Therefore, the maximum value of stress shown on the generated stress curve in Fig. 1C can be reduced." (Page, 18, lines 13-18).

More specifically, amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "a cross section not including the aperture of the pressure retaining part is larger than a cross section not including the aperture of the introducing part," and "the smallest cross section of the body part is larger than the smallest cross section of the introducing part and the smallest cross section the forward end." Wurster does not teach the above limitations.

First, with respect to the limitation of "a cross section not including the aperture of the pressure retaining part is larger than a cross section not including the aperture of the introducing part," Wurster in FIGs. 1, 2, 3, and 6 show that the cross section not including the aperture of the pressure retaining part is equal at best, if not smaller, than the cross section not including the aperture of the introducing part. Note that the "introducing part" of the present invention is defined in claim 1 as that portion that the "elongated aperture extending in the terminal axis is formed . . . a portion of the introducing part." Therefore, any part of the contact of Wurster construed as the "introducing part" should include part of the aperture. However, as seen in

FIGs. 1 and 2 of Wurster, the cross section not including the aperture of the pressure retaining part (that is, the thickness of the two "legs" on each side of the aperture) is equal to the cross section not including the aperture of the introducing part (that is, the thickness of the two "legs" converging and shaping the lower part of the aperture). In fact, in FIGs. 3 and 6 of Wurster, the cross section not including the aperture of the pressure retaining part (that is, the thickness of the two "legs" on each side of the aperture) is smaller than the cross section not including the aperture of the introducing part (that is, the thickness of the two "legs" converging and shaping the lower part of the aperture).

Second, with respect to the limitation of "the smallest cross section of the body part is larger than the smallest cross section of the introducing part," as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2 of Wurster, the body part of the contact (substantially designated by 22) has a cross section the same as the introducing part (substantially designated by 24). Again, note that the "introducing part" and the "body part" of the present invention are defined in claim 1 as those portions that the "elongated aperture extending in the terminal axis is formed at a center of the pressure retaining part, [and] a portion of the introducing part."

As a result, at least for the above two reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Wurster.

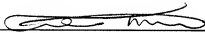
Amended independent claim 2 includes similar limitations as the above-mentioned limitation of claim 1 and therefore is not anticipated by Wurster either.

Dependent claims 6-7, 10-12, 14, and 16 depend on claims 1 and 2, respectively and thus are thus patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above, and for the extra limitation they include therein.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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